

Knowing Jesus as Priest
John 17 Discussion Questions
5/7/17

1. John 17 is commonly called the High Priestly Prayer. What does it mean that Jesus is our priest? Do you think of Him as your priest? Explain.
2. The first petition in the prayer is for His own glory (**vv1 & 5**). Why does Jesus pray for Himself?
3. In **v.1**, the text says “he lifted up his eyes to heaven.” What are some other postures for praying in the Bible? Have you ever prayed using different postures?
4. Second, Jesus prays for his disciples’ safety (**vv.11-12 & 15**). If the goal of the evil one is to make us abandon the faith, what are the specific strategies the enemy might use in your life to lead you away from Christ?
5. Do your prayers seem to be more of a wish list or do your prayers seem to be more of an emphasis on praying what you know to be true (similar to Jesus’ prayer)? Have you ever “prayed the Bible” as it was suggested in the sermon?
6. Third, Jesus prays for His disciples’ sanctification (**vv.15-19**). We learn that we become sanctified by the truth of God’s Word (**v.17**). From your experience, how does this happen? Would you say that your sanctification has been more impacted by periodically hearing a powerful sermon/talk/book or by consistently being exposed to God’s Word?
7. Fourth, Jesus prays for unity for his disciples (**vv.22-23**). The pattern for our unity is the Trinity where we see both diversity and unity. What are examples of diversity and unity among the Trinity? What are examples of healthy diversity and unity within the church?
8. Have you been a part of a Christian community that was unified? Have you been a part of a Christian community that was not unified? What are some of the key characteristics that distinguish a healthy, unified church?
9. Fifth, Jesus prays for the disciples’ mission (**vv18, 20, 23**). Read each of these verses and explain how these verses point to our mission. What are some principles we learn from these verses?
10. At the beginning of the prayer Jesus prayed that He would be restored to glory (**v.5**). In **v.24** He prays that His followers will be with him to see Him and His glory. Why should the idea of seeing Christ in His glory motivate us to remain faithful to the mission? Does it?
11. Jesus prays for His disciples to be guarded, sanctified, and unified so they can accomplish the mission. Is there one of these we do a good job of emphasizing? Is there one of these we need to emphasize more?